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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
Third session
4-22 April 1994
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Draft provisional agenda, proposed programme of work and other organizational matters

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1989/91, decided to convene, under the auspices of the United Nations, an international meeting on population in 1994. At its second regular session of 1991, the Council decided that the meeting should be called the International Conference on Population and Development (resolution 1991/93); it emphasized that "population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development" would be the overall theme of the Conference and identified within that theme six major issues as those requiring the greatest attention, during the forthcoming decade, from the international community and from the Conference; the Council also decided that one of the objectives of the Conference should be to contribute to the review and appraisal of the progress made in reaching the objectives, goals and recommendations of the World Population Plan of Action 1/ and to identify the obstacles encountered.

2. In resolution 1993/76, the Council recommended, inter alia, that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, without prejudice to current arrangements for participation in the Conference and its preparatory process. Subsequently, at its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly, in endorsing fully Council resolution 1993/76, decided that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference should become a subsidiary body of the Assembly (resolution 48/186).

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* A/CONF.171/PC/1.

3. Considering the relatively limited duration of the Conference and the fact that only two days will be devoted to pre-Conference consultations, it is suggested to the Preparatory Committee that as many organizational and procedural questions as possible be settled in advance in order to allow maximum time at the Conference for the consideration of substantive items.

4. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee may wish to review the matters specified below and make recommendations to the Secretary-General of the Conference. Where clear precedents have been established for handling such matters at recent United Nations conferences, the recommendations below reflect those established practices.

I. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE

Recommendation 1

5. Taking into account the practice followed at recent United Nations conferences, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the following draft provisional agenda for the Conference:

1. Opening of the Conference.

2. Election of the President.

3. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

4. Adoption of the agenda.

5. Election of officers other than the President.

6. Organization of work, including the establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference.

7. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:

   (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;

   (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.

8. Experiences in population and development strategies and programmes.

9. Programme of Action of the Conference.

10. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

II. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE CONFERENCE

Recommendation 2

6. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the adoption of the provisional rules of procedure of the Conference.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN THE PRESIDENT

7. Under rule 7 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Conference is to elect, in addition to the President, __ Vice-Presidents, a Rapporteur-General and the Chairman of the Main Committee established in accordance with rule 46, bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical distribution. Elections are to be conducted in accordance with rules 44 and 45. Under rule 44, elections are to be held by secret ballot, unless the Conference decides otherwise.

IV. APPOINTMENTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

8. Under rule 5 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, a Credentials Committee of nine members is to be appointed at the beginning of the Conference. Its composition is to be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, which consisted of Austria, the Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America.

Recommendation 3

9. Accordingly, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that, in conformity with rule 5 of the draft provisional rules of procedure, the Conference appoint Austria, the Bahamas, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Mauritius, the Russian Federation, Thailand and the United States of America as members of the Credentials Committee, on the understanding that if a State is not present, the Conference will replace that State by another State from the same regional group, as designated by that group.

V. ORGANIZATION OF MEETINGS

Recommendation 4

10. The Conference shall be composed of a plenary and one main committee. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend the allocation of items 1 - 8 and 10 of the draft provisional agenda for the Conference to the plenary and the allocation of item 9 to the Main Committee. Negotiations on the draft Programme of Action of the Conference will be carried out in the Main Committee while the general debate is taking place in plenary meetings.

Recommendation 5

11. The Economic and Social Council, in resolution 1992/37, decided to convene the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994. In resolution 1993/76, the Council recommended that the Preparatory Committee for the Conference become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, and decided to convene two-day pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference. The Assembly, in resolution 48/186, endorsed fully Council resolution 1993/76. In order to enable the Conference to expedite its work and conclude on time, the Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend:

(a) That meetings normally be scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and start punctually;

(b) That the general debate on item 8 (Experiences in population and development strategies and programmes) be held in plenary meetings, starting on Monday, 5 September and concluding by Friday, 9 September; that during the debate, each delegation be given the opportunity to make a brief statement on its national experience in the population and development field, taking as the basis of its statement the draft Programme of Action of the Conference, the report of the Secretary-General on the fourth review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and the national report issued in preparation for the Conference;

(c) That there be no general debate in the Main Committee; that the Main Committee formulate its recommendations on item 9 (Programme of Action) based on the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee and taking into consideration the report of the Secretary-General on the fourth review and appraisal of the World Population Plan of Action and national experiences in population and development strategies and programmes; that the Main Committee start its work at 3 p.m. on Monday, 5 September and conclude by Friday, 9 September;

(d) That the list of speakers for the general debate on item 8 be closed at noon on Wednesday, 7 September at the venue of the Conference;

(e) That, in view of time constraints, statements in the general debate on item 8 be limited to seven minutes for the representatives of each State and three minutes for other participants;

(f) That statements in exercise of the right of reply be made at the end of the day whenever two meetings have been scheduled for that day and whenever such meetings are devoted to the consideration of the same item; that the number of interventions in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting be limited to two per item, the first intervention to be limited to three minutes and the second to two minutes.

VI. DATE FOR OPENING THE LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR THE GENERAL DEBATE ON AGENDA ITEM 4

Recommendation 6

12. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that the list of speakers for the general debate on item 8 be opened at United Nations Headquarters at 10 a.m. on 3 August 1994.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Recommendation 7

13. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that, in accordance with practice at previous United Nations conferences:

(a) The report of the Conference consist of the decisions of the Conference; a brief account of the events leading to the convening of the Conference; and the proceedings, including a repertorial account of the work of the Main Committee and of the action taken on its recommendations in plenary meetings;

(b) Each regional group be requested to designate, before the opening of the Conference, two persons to serve as friends of the Rapporteur-General, who will assist the latter in preparing the draft report of the Conference.

VIII. OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED BY THE MAIN COMMITTEE

14. Rule 46 of the draft provisional rules of procedure provides for the election by the Main Committee, unless it decides otherwise, of three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur.

Recommendation 9

15. The Preparatory Committee may wish to recommend that agreement on a slate of candidates for the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur of the Main Committee be reached before the opening of the Conference, thus permitting elections by acclamation and dispensing with the requirement of a secret ballot.

Notes

1/ Report of the United Nations World Population Conference, Bucharest, 19-30 August 1974 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.XIII.3), chap. I.